

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
16 June 2005 (16.06.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2005/054298 A1

(51) International Patent Classification⁷: C08B 11/00, (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(21) International Application Number: PCT/FI2004/000730

(22) International Filing Date: 2 December 2004 (02.12.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data: 20031763 3 December 2003 (03.12.2003) FI

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(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIP0 (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

WO 2005/054298 A1

(54) Title: A METHOD FOR PREPARING A CELLULOSE ETHER

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method for preparing a cellulose ether. The method comprises mixing cellulose with an ionic liquid solvent to dissolve the cellulose, and then treating the dissolved cellulose with an etherifying agent in the presence of an inorganic base to form a cellulose ether, and subsequently separating the cellulose ether from the solution, wherein both the dissolution and the etherification are carried out in the absence of an organic base and in the substantial absence of water. Microwave irradiation and/or pressure can be applied to assist in dissolution and etherification.